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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,910	01/20/2004	Taku Kodama	6453P028	4418

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BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER	
ABDI, AMARA	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/761,910	KODAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amara Abdi	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 July 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *16-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *16-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 June 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See Continuation Sheet*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :01/20/2004 06/25/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Specie 5 in the reply filed on 07/16/2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground (s) that they are only four species A-D in the application. The electing of specie D of Figs. 10 and 21, where claims 16-24 are readable on the elected specie D is persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 16-18,20-22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano et al. (US 7,127,117) in view of Okada (US 6,934,418).

(1) Regarding claim 16:

Sano et al. disclose an image processing apparatus (column 1, line 19-20) comprising:

an obtaining unit to obtain encoded data that has been compressed by dividing an image into a plurality of divided regions and compressing the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another (figure 31, column 20, line 5-12), (the tiles with arbitrary size is read as regions independent from one to another);

a second setting unit to set the divided regions so that boundaries of the divided regions approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are within the image (column 15, line 26-28); and

a conversion unit to convert the encoded data into converted encoded data which has been compressed using the divided regions set by the second setting unit (column 20, line 30-33)

Sano et al. do not explicitly mention the first setting unit to set aspect ratios or size.

Okada, in analogous environment, teaches an image data coding apparatus, where setting the aspect ratio (column 10, line 24-26).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Okada, where the aspect ratio is set, in the system of Sano et al. in order to provide an image data server capable of coding image data in conformance to the desired compression rate with ease and speed while minimizing the deterioration of the image quality (column 4, line 48-52).

(2) Regarding claim 21:

Sano et al. disclose an image processing apparatus (column 1, line 19-20) comprising:

a conversion unit to carry out a conversion process with respect to encoded data of an image that has been compressed by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000 (column 20, line 7-8);

a second setting unit setting an image region that is within the image and has a Region Of Interest (ROI) (column 18, line 59-61),(the setting of the image region is read as the same concept as the tile boundary), and

the conversion unit converting the encoded data into converted encoded data (column 20, line 30-33) having the Region Of Interest (ROI) (column 18, line 60-61).

Sano et al. do not explicitly mention the first setting unit to set aspect ratios or size.

Okada, in analogous environment, teaches an image data coding apparatus, where setting the aspect ratio (column 10, line 24-26).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Okada, where the aspect ratio is set, in the system of Sano et al. in order to provide an image data server capable of coding image data in conformance to the desired compression rate with ease and speed while minimizing the deterioration of the image quality (column 4, line 48-52).

(3) Regarding claim 17:

Sano et al. further disclose the image processing apparatus (column 1, line 19-20), where the compression process employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000 (column 20, line 7-8), and wherein setting boundaries of the divided regions includes approximately matching boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions which are within the image (column 15, line 14-28).

(4) Regarding claims 18 and 22:

Sano et al. further disclose the image processing apparatus (column 1, line 19-20), where the conversion unit converts the encoded data of the image into converted encoded data (column 20, line 30-33) consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions (column 20, line 21-29), (the term solely is read as "without another", and the shifting of a bit-plane of the tile is read as encoding data of the image into converted encoded data without codes corresponding to the image region).

(5) Regarding claim 20 and 24:

Sano et al. further disclose the image processing apparatus (column 1, line 19-20) comprising an expansion unit to expand the encoded data of the image by expanding only codes corresponding to the image regions (Fig. 32, column 20, line 42-50), (the expanding of the encoded data is read as decoding).

4. Claims 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano et al. and Okada, as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of de Queiroz (US-PGPUB 2004/0013268).

Sano et al. and Okada disclose all the subject matter as described in claim 16 and 21 above.

Furthermore, Sano et al. disclose a communication unit to communicate with an external device (column 21, line 9-11), (the communication unit is read as modem).

Sano et al. and Okada do not explicitly mention the transmitting of the converted encoded data to the external device by the communication device.

de Queiroz, in analogous environment, teaches a method for authentication of JPEG image data, where encoding and transmitting the embedded signature to the intended recipient (paragraph [0042], line 7-11), (the intended recipient is read as the external device).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system de Queiroz transmitting the information to the intended recipient (external device), in the system of Sano et al. in order to encoding verification information into JPEG image data files prior to transmission to an intended recipient by the file's author and which enables the recipient to decode the verification information so as to ascertain whether the contents of the file have been altered in some fashion prior to receipt (paragraph [0022], line 2-8).

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amara Abdi whose telephone number is (571) 270-1670. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30 Am to 5:00 PM E.T..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wu Jingge can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Amara Abdi
08/20/2007

JINGGE WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER